

Menzel Letters

JTFreeman
5/86

August 13, 1960

Senator John F. Kennedy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack:

I'm very pleased to have been asked to help in formulating policies in science and space research. I gladly accept. I enclose herewith my itinerary for the next month, in case there should be any urgent matter you would like to consult me about. Our local committee is having its first meeting on Tuesday, August 16. There are a number of specific points on the space program. But the most important general recommendation I shall have to make concerns the support of basic research by the U. S. government, by the military as well as by the National Science Foundation. It was, in large part, the lack of appreciation of the role of basic research that has contributed seriously to our current lag in the field of outer space. Secretary Wilson's famous statement "I don't care what makes grass green," about summarizes the current administration's view in the matter.

On an entirely different basis, I am sending you a copy of a letter sent to me by Oswald Jacoby, of Dallas, Texas. Jacoby, as you may know, is the well-known bridge expert. He and I served in the Navy together, in what is now the National Security Agency. I have been associated with this activity for almost 30 years, and probably have the longest continuous record of association of any person in the country. I still keep my close association with them. Properly cleared to one another, I should be able to help in this sensitive area.

Mr. Jacoby brings out a very interesting point with reference to the intelligence picture. Jacoby has had a great deal of experience in this area and I think that his views would be helpful. I have one final comment. I do not set myself up as an expert in the complex problem of foreign policy. But I do travel a great deal, meet scientists and persons from all different countries, and have my own reaction to the international impact of our foreign policy.

Director